GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1665
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2015
World Bank Report on Urbanization
Galla Shri Jayadev

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has issued a report on urbanization in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government to World Bank report's observation that urbanization in India is 'messy and hidden';
(c) the reasons for the difference in figures between the World Bank which says that 55.3% of country's total population are in urban whereas the 2011 census says that the figure is 30.9%; and
(d) the extent to which the Smart City concept helps to reduce the gap between the figure of the World Bank and the Government of India census?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a)& (b): Yes Madam. The World Bank group has released a report titled "Leveraging Urbanisation in South Asia". The Government is seized with the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation and other observations in the World Bank's report. The Government has launched many initiatives like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for infrastructure and Governance support to 500 cities, Smart Cities Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission and HRIDAY. Government also supports and facilitates urban reform agenda and capacity building initiatives of State Government.

(c) : The difference in the estimates of urban population between the World Bank Report and the Government of India's census 2011 report is primarily due to the difference in definition used. The Agglomeration Index used by the World Bank, is based on three parameters: population density (at least 150 people per square kilometre), a threshold population of a 'large' urban centre (50,000), and a maximum travel time to that centre (60 minutes). The Indian Census defines an urban area as (I) all places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc; and (II) all other places which satisfy the criteria of (i) a minimum population of 5,000 ; (ii) at least 75% of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and (iii) a density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometre.

(d) : Development of Smart Cities is a step towards comprehensive development of physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure to address the challenges of increasing trend of urbanisation. The purpose of Smart Cities Mission is to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling 'Area based' development and harnessing technology. This Area based development will transform existing areas into better planned ones through Retrofitting and Redevelopment models.

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